

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a first oligomeric compound and a second oligomeric compound, wherein:

the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to the second oligomeric compound and to a selected target nucleic acid;

~~at least one of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups wherein each of the nucleosides has a 2'-group that is other than 2'-OH and has 3'-endo conformational geometry, and at least one of the nucleosides is a 2'-fluoro modified nucleoside comprising a purine heterocyclic base;~~

the first oligomeric compound is a compound of the formula:

5'-(N_f)₅(N_m)₂(N_f)₂(N_m)₂(N_f)₅₋₆(N_m)₂-3'

wherein:

each N_f is a 2'-F modified nucleoside;

each N_m is a 2'-OCH₃ modified nucleoside; and

at least one of the 2'-fluoro modified nucleosides comprises a purine heterocyclic base;

each of the first and second oligomeric compounds independently comprises from about 12 to about 30 nucleosides; and

the composition optionally further comprises one or more phosphate groups, overhangs, stabilizing groups or conjugate groups.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the nucleosides of the second oligomeric compound comprise a β-D-ribofuranose sugar group.

6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of the first oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing group.
7. (previously presented) The composition of claim 6 wherein the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.
8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligomeric compound comprises a 5'-phosphate group.
- 10-13. (canceled)
14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the internucleoside linking groups of the first and second oligomeric compounds is, independently, a phosphodiester or a phosphorothioate.
- 15-19. (canceled).
20. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of the second oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing or conjugate group.
21. (previously presented) The composition of claim 20 wherein the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.
22. (previously presented) The composition of claim 20 wherein the 3'-terminus of the second oligomeric compound comprises a conjugate group.

23-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the nucleosides of the ~~first and second oligomeric compounds compound~~ has 3'-endo conformational geometry.

27-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claim 1~~ ~~claim 26~~ wherein each of the nucleosides that is other than 2'-OH and has 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-substituent group independently selected from -F, -O-CH₂CH₂-O-CH₃, -O-CH₃, -O-(CH₂)₂-O-N(R_j)(R_j), -O-(CH₂)₂-O-(CH₂)₂-N(R_j)(R_j), -O-CH₂-C(=O)-N(R_j)(R_j), -O-CH₂-CH=CH₂, and -O-(CH₂)₃-NH(R_j), where each R_j is, independently, H or C₁-C₁₀ alkyl.

31-38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the first and the second oligomeric compounds are a complementary pair of siRNA oligonucleotides.

40. (previously presented) The composition of claim 39 wherein the first and the second oligomeric compounds have 3'-dTdT overhangs.

41. (previously presented) The composition of claim 39 wherein the first and the second oligomeric compounds have blunt ends.

42. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one terminal cap moiety.

43. (previously presented) The composition of claim 42 wherein the terminal cap moiety is attached to one or both of the 3'-terminal and 5'-terminal ends of the second oligomeric compound.

44. (previously presented) The composition of claim 43 wherein the terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

45-48. (canceled).

49. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 12 to about 24 nucleosides.

50. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 19 to about 23 nucleosides.

51-52. (canceled)

53. (withdrawn) A method of reducing target messenger RNA comprising contacting one or more cells, a tissue or an animal with a composition of claim 1.

54-56. (canceled)